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THE MIRACLE TEMPLE LECTURES

MAYAN REVELATION NUMBER 118

LESSON NUMBER FIVE IN A SERIES OF SEVEN MAGIC WORDS

Pray

The Right of Petition
The Right of Appeal
Faith Brings Power
Claim Your Good

...Than This World Dreams Of
Prayer is Radiation
Giants at Prayer
Master Prayer

Beloved Centurion:

With this Lecture Lesson, we bring you the fifth of the Miracle Temple Lectures, which takes up a subject that has been the source of controversy through the ages. We refer to that great force for good - PRAYER.

There are many who do not understand prayer, there are many who do not believe in prayer, and there are many who become discouraged when their prayers are not answered. And then another very great group of people do not know HOW TO PRAY. Through the years, so many of our good and loyal followers have written to us, requesting instructions on how to pray.

There is so much more to prayer than merely asking of God those things which we desire. One of the greatest prayers which we, as individuals, can offer to God is that prayer in which we give thanks for those things which we have. A little act of kindness in our daily contact with people can be a prayer. A kind, generous thought can be a prayer. Yes, prayer is much, much more than merely asking God for what we want. Being thankful for what we have is such an important part of prayer.

There is another group who stop praying because their prayers are not answered, or so they think. They are impatient. They have forgotten that God works in wondrous ways his miracles to perform. But remember this and know that it is true, as Archbishop Usher tells us, "We have assurance that we shall be heard in what we pray, because we pray to that God that heareth prayer, and is the rewarder of all that come unto Him; and in His name, to whom God denieth nothing; and, therefore, howsoever we are not always answered at the present, or in the same kind that we desire, yet, sooner or later, we are sure to receive even above that we are able to ask or think, if we continue to sue unto Him according to His will."

Our prayers may not always be answered in the manner in which we request or anticipate, but they are answered, and we are all privileged to take our problems to the Court of God.

Your instructor sincerely hopes that this lesson will bring you enlightenment and comfort. Strengthen your faith now by reading the following Meditation, in order to prepare yourself for the message which follows:

MEDITATION

I have seen that prayer is the secret by which we of a dying race may renew our strength from the source of life and power. In prayer I will find my appointed task and place, and by its power I will perform the task and fill the place to the full extent of my own ability plus the empowering I can find through contact with the Unfailing One.

THE RIGHT OF PETITION

The struggle of peoples for the right of petition runs through all history. When this nation was founded that right was written deeply into its system of government. To this day the right of every citizen, however humble, to appeal is carefully safeguarded. In terms of citizenship this is the privilege of prayer.

The right of petition was written into the constitution of the kingdom of God

when the human race was born. The earliest personal records we have of human beings show them going to whatever was their conception of God about their troubles, problems, and needs. In some form or other prayer seems to be about as old as the race, which means that man early recognized his right of petition.

The value of the right of petition in human government is limited by the fact that petitions must be addressed to other human beings whose natures, characters, and attitudes may affect the result. To petition some official already prejudiced against one's cause, or who is bought off by one's enemies, or whose personal attitude is not friendly, means a cause lost before it is presented. The human element is necessarily a large factor in human administration.

In the divine government, THE COURT OF GOD, this is very different. The right of petition is kept sacred by the Infinite Governor, and so its integrity stands unchanged through the ages. God has no prejudice against anyone. His decisions are influenced by no personal factors but love and kindness. He grants every right petition, and when He must reject a wrong one, it is done in love. Nothing can buy or corrupt Him, and He is more anxious that the citizens of His kingdom be happy and do well than they themselves can be.

There is no formality about presenting a plea to Him. An altar is the traditional place, but if none is at hand you can build one, or if you cannot do that, any quiet place will do, and if no quiet place is available a quiet spirit will suffice. Just put your plea on the waves that vibrate between Soul and soul. It will not miscarry or be lost. It will not have to wait for its turn. It will be considered as soon as it is made, and what is done about it will be the best and wisest thing that can be done. Could one ask more? Is there any right of petition anywhere in history or anywhere on earth to compare with this one?

Never think it is not worth while to present your plea. Never let the preoccupation of your problem or need cause a moment's delay. MAKE YOUR PLEA AS SOON AS YOU REALIZE THE NEED. Do not hesitate or falter. Go to the throne in confidence and faith, knowing that you have standing there. No one will browbeat you or make you feel inferior. You will be talking to One who would have been disappointed if you had not come.

THE RIGHT OF APPEAL

In this particular relationship the right of petition sometimes becomes the right of appeal. This too is something people have often struggled for in their quest for freedom, and something written into the divine constitution from the beginning. If one does not seem to get justice from people, conditions, or events, he can always appeal to the highest court of the universe, the real court of last resort, presided over by the Father of all.

Appealing cases in ordinary courts is a long, uncertain, and costly process. There are attorneys' fees, bonds for court costs, expenses for transcriptions, and long waits on the slow-moving docket. THE COURT OF GOD is always in session. It renders prompt decisions, though their execution may take a little time. There are no costs of any kind, anyone may present his case at any time, and its presentation is called prayer. PRAYER, THEN, IS AN APPEAL TO THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNIVERSE. It is one of the rare features of that perfect democracy called the kingdom of God. Surely that makes it quite a privilege.

People and conditions pass judgment on us in everything we do. The world is not always generous, or even just; but God is. All who stand before His tribunal get the kindest possible consideration. Every least vestige of a cause is taken into account, and in every decision every possible interest and the happiness and welfare of every life is duly considered.

In this way prayer opens the whole universe to you for a dwelling place and puts all its possibilities for good within your reach. This claim is no extravagance of the imagination. It is a realistic fact, written into the Book of Life and borne out by the experience of many witnesses.

Of course it is not weak, petty, puny praying we are talking about here. It is sure and confident prayer undertaken in earnest by courageous and believing people as a high adventure of the soul. Have done with merely formal praying, praying by rote, praying for insignificant and unimportant things, and praying with no grand sweep of vision and confidence. Make victorious praying a phase of victorious living. Open all the stops and go all out for the kind of thing only supreme power can do.

Work out a survey of your life. Begin NOW, but take time to make it complete. Revise it and keep revising it as you understand things better. What in your life is not as it should be? What are its possibilities unrealized and half realized? Where are the weak spots, the rough spots, the incomplete spots, the failure spots, the wrong beginning spots?

Think these over and see what you need. Where you yourself can do something about it, do so. Determine the things that are out of your hands or beyond your power - the things you must refer to God. Prepare your appeal and present it before the throne of grace. Keep observing and analyzing. Keep doing what you can. Keep praying. That is your wonderful right of appeal.

FAITH BRINGS POWER

Modern mechanical devices all require some sort of powering, usually being plugged into an electric current. For instance, this is what changed the old-fashioned phonograph horn to the powerful loud-speaker arrangement in a modern radio set. This powering arrangement makes all the difference in the world. It makes a dead thing come to life.

Everything in creation is powered to give out light waves, sound waves, or some other kind of vibration. It seems to have been a part of the plan of creation, so it was only the natural thing that there should be some source of power with which to power prayer.

Some praying is as flat as was the sound coming from the first phonograph horns. Some is so much more lifeless even than that that it seems not to register at all. But some praying seems to take hold, to be effective, to electrify the situation, to change things. The difference is that it is vitalized by that marvelous something we call faith.

Faith is mysterious, but that does not at all mean that it is not real. Electric power is mysterious too, but no one questions its reality. Atomic energy is more mysterious yet, but it is real enough to have affected the life of every person on earth in a few years. Faith was planned in the same infinite mind and made a part of

the same world pattern as they. Like them, we can take it or leave it, but if we want to be victorious in prayer we had better take it.

But how does one go about taking faith? In other words, what does one do to possess it? We have nothing to start with. As with electricity we have to generate it, but how?

The first person known to have noticed the force we now call electricity was Thales of Miletus, about five hundred years before Christ. Thales, who was a philosopher and always on the lookout for new facts and their meanings, happened one day to be sitting in a sunlit room polishing a piece of amber with a woolen cloth. Particles of lint were floating about in the room, and were of course highly visible in the shaft of sunshine falling through the window. As he rubbed, and the amber grew warm from the friction, he noticed that the lint particles in the sunlight were affected by some force, and were dancing and leaping about. They were electrified, and that small bit of electric force had been generated in the heat caused by the friction. That was the beginning of the great dynamo of today.

Faith too seems to begin in some kind of warmth that melts the frozen fastness of the heart. Only a little faith may at first result, but even a little faith is a tremendous force. This little should be caught and nurtured like a tiny flame from a single spark struck by flint and steel. It will grow by use, and be made sure of itself by experience, till it becomes a great, dominating force, activating the entire functioning of life, and reaching out to other things through prayer. Jesus said a little of it could move a mountain, and St. Paul listed many still greater things it has actually been known to do.

Mumbling devotional words probably has some value, but not much power. The prayer of faith is one of the great energies of the universe, but like any other energy, it has laws and keeps them. So, when you pray, do not forget to turn on the current. It can hardly be expected to push the button itself.

CLAIM YOUR GOOD

Once in a certain city, the writer found he needed more money than he had. It occurred to him to go to a bank where he had once carried an account and see if anyone there remembered him and would cash a check. Unfamiliar faces were at the tellers' windows, but he stated his case to one of them. The man went back and talked with another man a little while, then returned to the window and said:

"You do not need to have your check cashed, sir. You have money here. You never checked out all the money you had in this bank. We shall be glad to give you your balance now."

He was surprised to discover that he had resources waiting for him when he came through the door, and had had for several years, enough to meet his need. But the undrawn balance he had in that bank was nothing to compare with the undrawn resources many of us have in the treasury of God - enough to meet any need anywhere and at any time.

That bank had no wish to keep that money from its owner, whose whereabouts it had ceased to know. It was only an item to keep bothering with on the books, and ultimately to be disposed of in some way or other. It would much rather have him take

the money than leave it there. It is the same with God. He has all possible blessings for you. He neither needs nor wants them Himself. So long as you do not claim them He just has to keep them, and perhaps finally give them to someone else. Do not leave your good unclaimed. It is for you to have and use.

If a given quantity of some material, such as food in a home, is to be divided among a given number of children, there is only so much for each, and it is possible that in some cases that so much may not be enough. Thus, no child might get enough, or some child might not get any.

No such thing is possible in the economy of God, the gates to whose storehouse are opened by prayer for material values, spiritual values, or the release of forces to accomplish things. When we understand that any and all things come into being by a thought of the divine mind plus the energizing of that thought by the divine will, we can see at once that there is absolutely no limit to what can be produced by that process. THERE IS ALWAYS ENOUGH FOR GOD'S CHILDREN IF THEY WILL ONLY COME TO THE TABLE IN FAITH. The portions are adequate, and none needs to be left out. OF THAT THE PROMISE IS SURE.

Don't leave your good unclaimed. Remember that when you draw your needed resources from the bank of God that does not deplete your account. He promptly deposits more to your credit. You cannot check on it for any old reason, but you can draw on it in case of real need, especially for doing good, in the work of building a useful life, and in the business of enriching your spiritual powers and putting them to better use. You can do these on any scale you wish.

... THAN THIS WORLD DREAMS OF

Probably the full possibilities of prayer have never been utilized because, like the universe itself, they are too vast even to be so much as realized. Each new and larger telescope only reveals new and farther reaches of a space already too vast for comprehension. So each new adventure in prayer only shows larger ranges than have been suspected before. We can but assume with the one as with the other that the measure is infinity itself.

This immeasurable scope keeps prayer always a new and fresh experience, a treading of ground not seen before. Like truth, we can never even begin to try all its paths and see all its vistas. If one wants infinite variety and scope, certainly here it is. Tennyson has given us beautiful lines to express this infinity:

"Pray for my soul. More things are wrought by prayer
Than this world dreams of. Wherefore let thy voice
Rise like a fountain for me night and day.
For what are men more than sheep or goats
That nourish a blind life within the brain,
If, knowing God, they lift not hands of prayer
Both for themselves and those who call them friend.
For so is this whole round earth every way
Bound by gold chains about the feet of God."

Three other great meanings stand out from these beautiful lines, each of them

suggesting another phase of the same thing, the infinity of prayer, the fact that its meanings and possibilities are far beyond what the world dreams of.

The first is that this is a request from one person to another person to pray for his soul. Such a request is far-reaching, for the soul is life reaching out into infinity and capable of contacting infinite things and values. So prayer can reach into fields of life which are more than this world dreams of when one person prays for the soul of another.

The second suggestion is that the use of prayer in the adventurous sense of moving out into the reach of its possibilities is a thing that really distinguishes the human. Undoubtedly man began to take on the divine image when he began to pray. It removed him to a point something beyond the comprehensions and practices of sheep and goats. They inhabit the physical world. Prayer made man a citizen of the spiritual one as well.

This itself suggests the third point, that prayer is the connecting link between the earth life and whatever higher realms of existence there may be. It is the gold chain that binds this world about the feet of God. Away, then, with any feeling of frustration or claustrophobia of the soul. We are children of the Infinite. To say the world is ours is a prize understatement. Eternity is ours. Infinity is ours. All hopes, possibilities, and roads are ours. What is the difference if we are blocked one way or a hundred ways, when there are a thousand more?

All the MIRACLE POWER OF PRAYER ever meant to prophet, apostle, or sage, it is ready on a moment's notice to mean to you. Let no feeling of unworthiness stop you. After all, who of us is worthy? If you are timid, remember that along these ways countless timid souls have walked to courage and victory. Do not plead the lack of anything as a reason for not going where an abundant supply awaits you. That is what prayer is for, to make available POWER by WHICH MORE THINGS ARE WROUGHT THAN THIS WORLD DREAMS OF.

PRAYER IS RADIATION

Some time ago, radar impulses were sent to the moon, and the rebound came back in a few seconds. The radiation traveled the half million miles or so of the round trip to the moon and back at about the speed of light. Any day we need not be surprised at similar reports concerning planets many millions of miles away. In fact, the radiation of reflected light is what disclosed the presence of the outer planets of our solar system, like Neptune and Pluto, while the radiation of direct light is what has disclosed the presence of stars many thousands of light years away.

Now the wonder-working instruments of perception have performed another and still greater miracle of the exploration of space. Waves of radiation, probably sounds from so far away that they cannot stir the atmosphere and vibrate the ear drum, have been picked up coming from points beyond the reaches of our Galaxy, the Milky Way.

They are thought to come either from dark stars or from stars so far away they cannot be seen by the eye or any existing telescope. That indicates that even though known space is so vast yet perceivable vibrations are moving about in it - fragments perhaps of what we call "the music of the spheres", the symphony that began when first "the morning stars sang together".

Prayer is really a radiation of a finer kind than any disturbance of either the present atmosphere or the distant ether. It is a vibration sent out from soul to soul, and since thought and the higher emotions are vibrations of a finer sort, we may assume that they have a far greater range - infinite in fact - since they are infinite powers dealing with infinite values. You were given the most marvelous instrument of all when you were given the power to pray. You will be overwhelmed when you consider how much it means that you were complimented with this gift and trusted with its use.

Some will still say, "But all this is unseen, something one cannot weigh or hold in his hand." Very true, but if by now you have not come to see that the greatest of all forces are unseen, you will scarcely catch the point of this lesson. We live in a very small universe until we begin to learn our way around among the things that are unseen. What we see is only the vibration given off by something anyway. The reality is always unseen. For instance, we never really see the sun. We only see where it was eight minutes before. When we see light just at sunset in the evening, the sun itself has already gone down. Don't trust sight too far. The unseen may be much more real and dependable. These are the days to understand prayer, for the things that once obscured it have so largely been done away.

However, prayer was never a matter for debate but for use. Whatever you think of it, whatever you hear thoughtless people say of it, find out for yourself. Don't question, or weigh reasons, or even try at first to understand. Try it and see. Do not try it in a small way. Launch out into the deep with it. It will make you ONE PLUS GOD, and that is a majority.

GIANTS AT PRAYER

Too much praying is merely bungling. Too many people do not know how to pray and make little real effort to learn. Too many of us just ask for what we want when we want it without considering whether we should have it. We all need to set up a consistent and sustained prayer program for challenging any worthwhile objectives and follow it through till great and good things are done. Our little begging prayers help, but we could do better. Some adequate prayer programs are on record, notably in the Bible. Let us notice a few of them in hope of catching the idea.

When he was already an aging man, Abram of Ur in Chaldea heard the call of God to leave his home and go to far away Canaan. He could not know that he was to be the first pioneer in the Promised Land of his people, the father of the race of David and of Jesus. As we follow him on the journey we find him pausing here and there to build an altar unto the Lord. He was on an expedition that was the beginning of the most important trend in human history, and he was activating it with prayer.

Long afterward, Moses was called to get the Hebrew people out of Egypt and on the way back to Canaan which was their appointed national home. He had to defy temporal power, endure the short-sighted grumbling of his own followers, set up the law for them, and lead them safely within sight of their goal. How did he manage all this? By getting acquainted with God in the place of the burning bush, by constant appeals at the throne of mercy, by long periods in communion with God on Sinai, and by having and using a special place where he spent hours with the Divine. Lifting the constant voice of prayer, he brought the enterprise to a successful end.

When after years of struggle the nation had been organized, David died and left the throne to Solomon. The son showed that, like his father, he had learned to pray and to carry forward a great cause in prayer. Early in his reign he had a dream of God, and only people who talk with God during the day dream about doing so at night. God told the young king to choose what he would like to have at his hand. Solomon answered that what he wanted most was wisdom. The divine voice told him he had done well to ask for wisdom rather than riches and honor, for he who gets wisdom gets riches and honor as its by-products. Prayer made the reign of Solomon the climax of the glory and power of Israel.

We can only mention one more, so let us take the greatest of them all. Many people have affected the world life more or less here and there, but there was One who actually changed the course of time's mighty stream. Though gentle and kind, he set himself to that task and was strong enough to succeed.

Never suppose that the power of the influence of Jesus was automatic, or accidental, or without reason. It had one supreme explanation in the fact that never in the world has lived any other who was so much a man of prayer. His praying was not a matter of minutes, but of hours. It was no public performance. When he prayed in public, his words were few and to the point. But to keep the power batteries of his soul in full charge, he spent hours on silent rooftops, in lonely deserts, by the silent waters, and in the morning and evening shadows of the Mount of Olives. When they came to take him prisoner, they found him in the garden of Gethsemane at prayer. HE WHO DOES GREAT THINGS MUST FIND GREAT SOURCES OF POWER.

Prayer has its value in the little daily problems and needs, but do not fail to make it the secret of your strength to carry through the larger program of your life. THOSE WHO HAVE DONE THE BEST AND GREATEST THINGS IN THE WORLD HAVE POWERED THE EFFORTS WITH PRAYER.

May I suggest that if you do not have the little booklet which is prepared and presented by The Mayan Order, entitled HOW TO PRAY, if you will tell us, we will be very happy to send it along to you. Or, if you have read it, perhaps you might like a copy to pass along to someone else whom you feel would benefit by its message.

May this Lecture Lesson on prayer bring you peace and contentment of mind, and the answers to your good prayers. Let us pray.

MASTER PRAYER

Father God, I am about to consider the high privilege of prayer. I thank Thee that I have not only the right to pray, but also the right to pray that I may learn to pray. I am grateful that in all things pertaining to prayer I am dealing with One who is more than generous, for Thy sympathy is mine even before I ask it. With such a standing before Thy throne I have no right to fail. Amen.

Your Class Instructor.

The title of the next Lecture Lesson in this Series is BELIEVE, in which we take up the following subjects:

Clinging Hands
Building Beliefs
Pattern for Growth
The Community of Beliefs

Sincerity Is Not Enough
Belief In the Spirit
It Adds Up to Faith
Master Prayer